

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-10, 12 and 15-18 are amended herein. Claims 3 and 11 are canceled herein. Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-23 are pending. No new matter is added as a result of the claim amendments.

Specification

The title of the invention is amended as required by the Examiner.

103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanson et al. ("Hanson;" U.S. Patent No. 6,442,734). The Applicants have reviewed this reference and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-23 is not shown or suggested by Hanson.

Each of the claims recites a cradle element couplable to a portable computer system. The cradle element has a pin, and the resistance value of the pin indicates a type of communication interface (e.g., Universal Serial Bus or RS232) that is used by the cradle element. Specifically, independent Claim 1 recites "reading a resistance value of a pin on a cradle element that receives said portable computer system and that couples said portable computer system to a second computer system" and "identifying a type of communication interface used with said cradle element according to said resistance value." Independent Claim 9 recites "a communication interface port coupled to said bus, said communication interface port operable to couple with a cradle element, said cradle element comprising a

pin, wherein a resistance value of said pin indicates a type of communication interface used by said cradle element to communicate with a second computer system also operable to couple with said cradle element." Independent Claim 17 recites "reading at said portable computer system a resistance value of a pin on said cradle element" and "identifying at said portable computer system a type of communication interface, wherein said type of communication interface is identified by said resistance value." Claims 2 and 4-8 are dependent on Claim 1; Claims 10 and 12-16 are dependent on Claim 9; and Claims 18-23 are dependent on Claim 17.

Applicants respectfully assert that Hanson does not show or suggest a cradle element couplable to a portable computer system, the cradle element having a pin, where the resistance value of the pin indicates a type of communication interface that is used by the cradle element.

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner states in essence that a cradle element is known in the art. However, Applicants respectfully assert that a cradle element as described by the claims is not known in the art. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to cite a reference that shows a cradle element as recited by the claims.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that Hanson does not show or suggest the present invention as recited by Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-23, and that the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims.

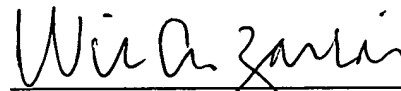
Based on the arguments presented above, the Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-23 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, the Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these claims.

The Applicants have reviewed the references cited but not relied upon. The Applicants did not find these references to show or suggest the present claimed invention: U.S. 5,939,875; U.S. 6,460,094; and the IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins TDB-ACC-NO: NN8804478 and NA891059.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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